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Top Secret

February 4, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Director McCone sent a summary of your discussion with him yesterday to McGeorge Bundy. Bundy replied this morning as follows:

[We have pressed throughout the day to see whether any member of country team believes that we can prevent continued deterioration in the absence of a "reasonably effective and stable government." The country team appears to share the President's judgement that such a government is necessary on all counts. Getting it is something else again.]

In particular, I think you should tell the President that a day of inquiry reveals no present prospect of a government acceptable to us which would also be acceptable to the leaders of the Buddhist institute. [The current situation among non-communists forces gives all the appearances of a civil war within a civil war.]

In this situation, the construction of a Government of national unity may well require sharp confrontation with Buddhists before, during, or after the construction job."

Bromley Smith

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